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TO: Chuck Benedict, Chair and Members of the Assembly Public Health Committee
FROM: Gina Dennik-Champion, RN, MSN, MSHA
Executive Director, Wisconsin Nurses Association
DATE: March 30, 2010
RE: WNA Support for AB828 – Allowing certified APNPs to determine an illness or injury and complete forms for the purposes of medical review related to motor vehicle operators licenses and allowing APNPs to determine disability for the purposes of issuing certain hunting permits

Good afternoon Chairperson Benedict and members of the Assembly Public Health Committee. Thank you for allowing the Wisconsin Nurses Association the opportunity to testify in support of AB828, as amended. My name is Gina Dennik-Champion, I am a registered nurse and I am here today representing the Wisconsin Nurses Association. WNA is the professional nurses association for all registered nurses in Wisconsin.

WNA is appreciative of Representative Molepske's sponsorship of AB828. These proposals may seem insignificant, but I can tell you from a public safety and quality of life perspective, these proposed statute changes are important.

Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers (APNPs) are registered nurses with graduate degrees in nursing or other advanced formal clinical education and training from an accredited school of nursing. APNPs are certified under the Board of Nursing that has a scope of practice that is defined in SS Chapter 441.16. APNPs function independently and collaboratively with other health care professionals.

APNPs are qualified to handle a wide range of health problems, including many that traditionally have been performed by physicians. Emphasis is placed on health promotion and disease prevention, as well as the diagnosis and management of common acute and chronic diseases and injuries.

APNPs provide care in many health settings including clinics and offices, emergency and urgent care facilities, business and industry, public health, rehabilitation and occupational health centers. APNPs perform sports, pre-employment, pre-surgical and DOT exams.

APNPs have improved consumer access to care by providing health care services in rural and urban dense shortage areas by assisting in health programs for the poor, minorities, elderly and uninsured. In addition, the quality of care provided by APNPs is on the same level as their physician colleagues when measuring patient outcomes that include physical exams, prescription ordering and management, and patient education.

AB828 amends State Statute Chapter 43.16(5)(a) by allowing the Department of Transportation to accept a certified report of examination performed by an APNP. The purpose of the examination is to determine if the patient is capable of "exercising reasonable and ordinary control over a motor vehicle" (source: SS Chapter 343.16(5)(a)). APNPs would be added to the list of other health care professionals, i.e. licensed physicians and

licensed optometrists. This can improve patient access to timely services, which can lead to safer drivers on the road.

AB828 amends a variety of sections in State Statute Chapter 29 that address the issuing of hunting and other sport licenses for disabled or functionally impaired individuals. APNPs should be included in the Department of Natural Resources listing of health care practitioners who can perform an assessment and certify eligibility for a special permit. Increasing the number of health care practitioners can improve access and decrease wait time for a physical and functional assessment and issuing of a permit.

WNA is appreciative of the opportunity to provide our reasons for support of AB828. Thank you, Chairperson Benedict, for conducting a hearing and we thank Representative Pasch for her co-sponsorship.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.